

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-18 (Cancelled).

Claim 19 (New): A seed treatment formulation comprising

(a) at least one pesticidal agent; and
(b) a carboxyl group containing polymer or copolymer selected from the group consisting of styrene butadiene rubber latex polymers with a glass transition temperature of -40°C to 5°C , acrylate copolymers and ethylene vinyl acetate copolymers, wherein

(i) the acrylate copolymers consist of
(a') acrylic acid, methacrylic acid or itaconic acid or a combination of at least two monomers selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid or itaconic acid; and

(b') monomers selected from the group consisting of alkyl (meth)acrylates and (meth)acrylamides; and

(c') monomers selected from the group consisting of 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate, 2-hydroxypropyl acrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, 2-hydroxypropyl methacrylate, glycidyl (meth)acrylate; and

(d') monomers selected from the group consisting of styrene and styrene derivatives;

and have either a glass transition temperature of -40°C to 5°C ; or, if the acrylate copolymers have a core/shell structure a glass transition temperature of the inner core of -60°C to 5°C and of the outer shell of 20°C to 150°C ; and

(ii) the ethylene vinyl acetate copolymers consist of vinyl acetate, ethylene and acrylic acid and have a glass transition temperature of -25°C to -5°C .

Claim 20 (New): A seed treatment formulation according to claim 19, wherein the carboxyl group containing polymer or copolymer is an acrylate copolymer as defined in claim 19.

Claim 21 (New): A seed treatment formulation comprising

- (a) at least one pesticidal agent; and
- (b) an acrylate copolymer comprising
 - (a') either acrylic acid, methacrylic acid or itaconic acid or a combination of at least two monomers selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid or itaconic acid; and
 - (b') methyl methacrylate, ethyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate, cyclohexyl methacrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate or (meth)acrylamide; and
 - (d') styrene, wherein the acrylate copolymer has either a glass transition temperature of -40°C to 5°C ; or, if the acrylate copolymers have a core/shell structure a glass transition temperature of the inner core of -60°C to 5°C and of the outer shell of 20°C to 150°C .

Claim 22 (New): A seed treatment formulation comprising

- (a) at least one pesticidal agent; and
- (b) an acrylate copolymer comprising
 - (a') acrylic acid, methacrylic acid or itaconic acid or a combination of at least two monomers selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid or itaconic acid, from 0.2 % (w/w) to 6% (w/w); and
 - (b') methyl methacrylate, ethyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate, cyclohexyl methacrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate or (meth)acrylamide from 50 % (w/w) to 99.8 % (w/w); and
 - (d') styrene from 0% (w/w) to 50% (w/w) wherein the acrylate copolymer has either a glass transition temperature of -40°C to 5°C ; or, if the acrylate copolymers have a core/shell structure a glass transition temperature of the inner core of -60°C to 5°C and of the outer shell of 20°C to 150°C .

Claim 23 (New): A seed treatment formulation according to claim 19, wherein the copolymer is an ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer as defined in claim 19.

Claim 24 (New): A seed treatment formulation according to claim 19, wherein the copolymer is an acrylate copolymer having a core shell structure.

Claim 25 (New): A seed treatment formulation according to claim 19, wherein the amount of the carboxyl group containing polymer is between 0.5 and 15 % (w/w) on a solid content base.

Claim 26 (New): A seed treatment formulation according to claim 19, wherein the alkyl (meth)acrylate is methyl (meth)acrylate, ethyl (meth)acrylate, n-propyl (meth)acrylate, n-butyl (meth)acrylate, t-butyl (meth)acrylate, lauryl (meth)acrylate, cyclohexyl (meth)acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl (meth)acrylate, stearyl (meth)acrylate, or dodecyl(meth)acrylate.

Claim 27 (New): A seed treatment formulation according to claim 19, wherein the (meth)acrylamide is dimethyl(meth)acrylamide, diethyl(meth)acrylamide, isopropyl(meth)acrylamide, (meth)acryloyl morpholine, dimethylaminomethyl(meth)acrylamide, dimethylaminoethyl(meth)acrylamide, dimethylaminopropyl(meth)acrylamide, diethylaminomethyl(meth)acrylamide, diethylaminoethyl(meth)acrylamide, or diethylaminopropyl(meth)acrylamide.

Claim 28 (New): A seed treatment formulation according to claim 19, wherein the styrene derivative is α -methyl styrene, o-methyl styrene, m-methyl styrene, p-methyl styrene, p-t-butyl styrene, p-chloromethyl styrene, p-styrenesulfonic acid and its sodium or potassium salt, o-methoxystyrene, m-methoxystyrene, or p-methoxystyrene.

Claim 29 (New): A method for the preparation of a seed treatment formulation comprising combining at least one pesticidal agent and a carboxyl group containing polymer or copolymer selected from the group consisting of styrene butadiene rubber latex polymers with a glass transition temperature of -40°C to 5°C , acrylate copolymers and ethylene vinyl acetate copolymers, wherein

- (i) the acrylate copolymers consist of
 - (a') acrylic acid, methacrylic acid or itaconic acid or a combination of at least two monomers selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid or itaconic acid; and
 - (b') monomers selected from the group consisting of alkyl (meth)acrylates and (meth)acrylamides; and

(c') monomers selected from the group consisting of 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate, 2-hydroxypropyl acrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, 2-hydroxypropyl methacrylate, glycidyl (meth)acrylate; and

(d') monomers selected from the group consisting of styrene, α -methyl styrene, o-methyl styrene, m-methyl styrene, p-methyl styrene, p-t-butyl styrene, p-chloromethyl styrene, p-styrenesulfonic acid and its sodium or potassium salt, o-methoxystyrene, m-methoxystyrene, and p-methoxystyrene;

and have either a glass transition temperature of -40°C to 5°C ; or, if the acrylate copolymers have a core/shell structure a glass transition temperature of the inner core of -60°C to 5°C and of the outer shell of 20°C to 150°C ; and

(ii) the ethylene vinyl acetate copolymers consist of vinyl acetate, ethylene and acrylic acid and have a glass transition temperature of -25°C to -5°C .

Claim 30 (New): A method according to claim 29, wherein the alkyl (meth)acrylate is methyl (meth)acrylate, ethyl (meth)acrylate, n-propyl (meth)acrylate, n-butyl (meth)acrylate, t-butyl (meth)acrylate, lauryl (meth)acrylate, cyclohexyl (meth)acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl (meth)acrylate, stearyl (meth)acrylate, or dodecyl(meth)acrylate.

Claim 31 (New): A method according to claim 30, wherein the (meth)acrylamide is dimethyl(meth)acrylamide, diethyl(meth)acrylamide, isopropyl(meth)acrylamide, (meth)acryloyl morpholine, dimethylaminomethyl(meth)acrylamide, dimethylaminoethyl(meth)acrylamide, dimethylaminopropyl(meth)acrylamide, diethylaminomethyl(meth)acrylamide, diethylaminoethyl(meth)acrylamide, or diethylaminopropyl(meth)acrylamide.

Claim 32 (New): A method for the preparation of a seed treatment formulation comprising combining at least one pesticidal agent and an acrylate copolymer comprising

(a) either acrylic acid, methacrylic acid or itaconic acid or a combination of at least two monomers selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid or itaconic acid; and

(b) methyl methacrylate, ethyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate, cyclohexyl methacrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate or (meth)acrylamide; and

(d) styrene wherein the acrylate copolymer has either a glass transition temperature of -40°C to 5°C ; or, if the acrylate copolymers have a core/shell structure a glass transition temperature of the inner core of -60°C to 5°C and of the outer shell of 20°C to 150°C .

Claim 33 (New): A method for the preparation of a seed treatment formulation comprising combining at least one pesticidal agent and an acrylate copolymer comprising

(a) acrylic acid, methacrylic acid or itaconic acid or a combination of at least two monomers selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid or itaconic acid, from 0.2 % (w/w) to 6% (w/w); and

(b) methyl methacrylate, ethyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate, cyclohexyl methacrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate or (meth)acrylamide from 50 % (w/w) to 99.8 % (w/w); and

(d) styrene from 0% (w/w) to 50% (w/w), wherein the acrylate copolymer has either a glass transition temperature of -40°C to 5°C ; or, if the acrylate copolymers have a core/shell structure a glass transition temperature of the inner core of -60°C to 5°C and of the outer shell of 20°C to 150°C .

Claim 34 (New): Seeds treated with a seed treatment formulation according to claim 19.

Claim 35 (New): Rice seeds treated with a seed treatment formulation according to claim 19.

Claim 36 (New): A method for the treatment of seeds prior to sowing comprising the following steps:

a) applying to a solvent a seed treatment formulation according to claim 19; and

b) applying to a seed the mixture obtained in step a).

Claim 37 (New): A method according to claim 36 for the treatment of seeds prior to sowing, wherein the seeds are rice seeds.

Claim 38 (New): A method for the treatment of seeds prior to sowing in a seed priming process comprising the following steps:

- (i) hydration of seeds under controlled conditions followed by germination of seeds under controlled conditions;
- (ii) treatment of seeds with a seed treatment formulation according to claim 19; wherein
 - (a) the hydration can be done in a first step and the treatment of seeds with a seed treatment formulation according to claim 19 in a second step or,
 - (b) the treatment of seeds with a seed treatment formulation according to claim 19 can be done first followed by the hydration of seeds.

Claim 39 (New): A method for the control of undesired vegetation and/or combating phytopathogenic insects and/or phytopathogenic fungi comprising applying a seed treatment formulation according to claim 19 to seeds prior to sowing the seeds.

Claim 40 (New): A method according to claim 39, wherein the seeds are rice seeds.